WASTELAND

50¢

No. 3

Blondie

Germs

Iggy

Masque

Torpedos

Nick Gilder Interview

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Rumors

by Tom Gold

Detective will be in the studio working on their new lp in Miami for a couple of months.

Nigel Harrison, ex **Nite City** and ex **Silverhead** bassist is now in **Blondie**.

David Bowie is said to be narrating a children's record, "Peter and the Wolf" because it is his son Zowie's favorite story

The Runaways are no longer with the Mercury label.

Iggy Pop applied for a job at McDonald's once, long ago. He was turned down.

by Tom Gold

Bowie is also doing a film called "Wally" about Egon Schille.

The **Sex Pistols** are completing their movie **Who Killed Bambi?** even though they have broken up.

Cheap Trick were in the studio working on an album called, **It's a Big Secret**.

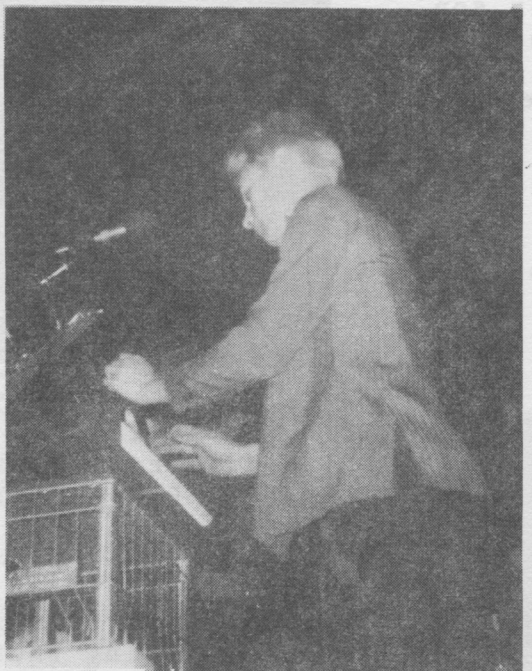
Billy Bizeau, keyboards player for the **Quick**, went to beautician school.

The Dickies' new single, "You Drive Me Ape", was premiered recently on KHJ.

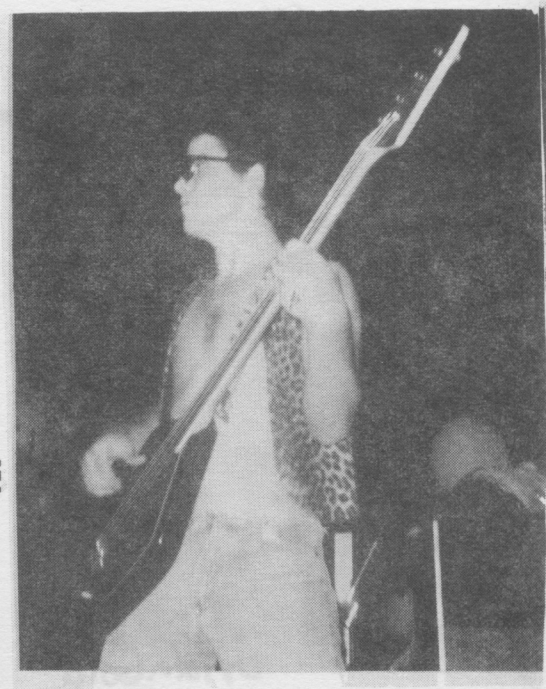
Rory Gallagher's new lp should be out soon, followed by a tour.

Masque Benefit

The Masque Benefit was held on February 24th and 25th at the Elks Lodge to help raise money for the re-opening of The Masque. The Masque was shut down because of inadequate fire exits. 20 of L.A.'s best PUNK bands played those 2 NIGHTS.



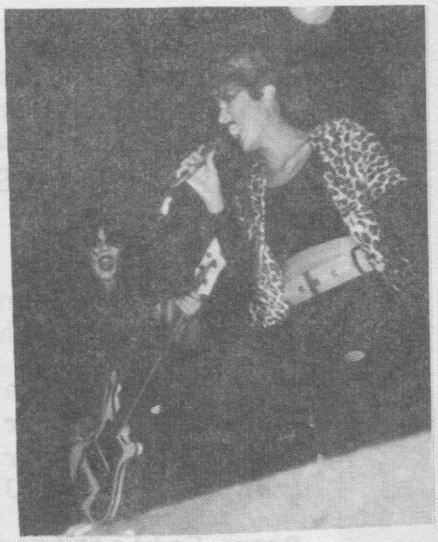
Screamers (Above and Right →)



Controllers

BRENDAN MULLEN
OWNER OF THE MASQUE

Flesh Eaters



Bags

Torpedos — a talk with Jack Hammers

Quite recently I spoke with Jack Hammers of the Torpedoes. An outspoken and well read gentleman, Hammers was ready, willing and able to describe the band that has been proclaimed on the sides of several Hollywood buildings... and a sound that separates it from the rest of the L.A. scene.

Z: Let's start with the different members.

JH: Johnny Nails on vocals and harp, Willy Blades on bass guitar, and Freddie on drums. I play lead guitar.

Z: Who formed the band?

JH: Myself, and Johnny Nails.

Z: When did he decide to become a band member?

JH: When I told him to.

Z: How long have you known Willy Blades?

JH: He's been in two other bands I was in.

Z: I know John comes from Detroit. How did you find Freddie?

JH: Freddie heard about the Torpedoes' reputation in Atlanta and he flew out here and auditioned.

Z: It's strange that this is a punk band and yet Johnny plays the harp.

JH: Well, he has to have something to put his lips on, besides the microphone. We're not punk rock, we're not new wave, we're somewhere in between, with a hard rock background.

z: So name a few bands that have influenced you.

JH: The Torpedoes.

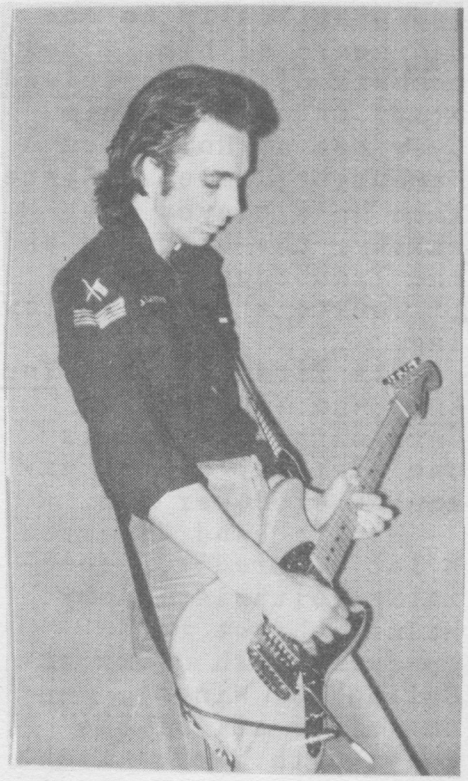
Z: Who writes the music for the band?

JH: Me and Johnny Nails. Johnny Nails has an uncanny talent for advanced lyricism. People will still be wondering what he's saying ten years from now.

I gotta go-
I gotta blow
I gotta score
I gotta be reborn
Somebody owes me a
living...
God Bless America
-from God Bless America
(copywrite 1978,
Nimrod music)

Z:How come it's taken so long for you guys to come out and play?

JH: Somebody's always drunk, or somebody's "Mind is on the T.V."



or someone is always "Bored."

When I think about all
our times together
I don't even want to
think at all.
You're such a bore-
It's such a drag to
talk about you
You're like a hemmoroid-
A pain in the fucking
ass
-from "Royal Flush"
(copywrite 1978
Nimrod music)

Z: Who is "Royal Flush" about?

JH: Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor.

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Nick Gilder Raw

A few months ago, before Nick Gilder had made his debut at the Whisky and practically no one had heard of him, a few members of the Wasteland staff interviewed him over tea at Hollywood's Hamburger Hamlet. Since then he's played the Whisky, the Starwood and the Troubadour and has got quite a large following.

His first album, "You Know Who You Are" on Chrysalis Records, is one of today's best examples of Power Pop.

Nick's band deserves a lot of credit, especially guitarist Jimmy McCulloch(not to be confused with Jimmy McCullogh of Wings), who co-writes all of the songs with Nick. Nick writes all of the lyrics and helps on the arrangements. For those of you who have yet to see Nick perform, he will be at the Whisky again April 18.

by Tom Gold

In San Francisco we played at Mabuhey Gardens. I had aprehensions about the place. It was a very rough place and this was the first gig ever with the new band. We played with the Dogs and the Negative Trend. The Negative Trends are the ultimate punks. I couldn't believe it! The singer went into the audience and asked for beatings and he asked for more feedback.

San Francisco was unbelievable. I thougt I had seen it all! Hollywood is nothing compared to San Francisco. All of the strip joints, massage parlors...(ed's. note: what about the House of Dominance with their fruit flavored enemas?) ...It was the bottom line.

I'm really obsessed with the city. You can tell from my songs- 'City Beat'.

There was solid graffitti at Mabuhey Gardens(like the Masque). It was really amazing. Of course it's because everyone wants to be famous. Spray painting for recognition. It's ironic because it's not really real. It's just ultra-chic. The whole place was deliberately delapidated.

I think the most outrageous thing to do is to be dreadfully honest and be as sincere as you can. I've always done exactly what I feel. I just do it.

Nick Gilder and Jimmy McCulloch were the founders of a Canadian band called Sweeny Todd. Nick left Sweeny Todd right after 'Roxy Roller' got to number one on the Canadian charts. They had an lp out called Sweeny Todd which is only available in Canada. Nick didn't like the production on the album. *The production was the main reason I split.*

Power Pop

The Story of Sweeny Todd:

I'm not 100% sure whether it is fact or fiction. There was a barber named Sweeney Todd. He'd kill his victems under the pretense of shaving them. He'd slit their throats and take them back to the basement. then his wife would make pies out of them. It was a rather unusual British play. In England the police force are now called the Sweeny. It's sort of an inside joke. We all used to wear different things, but all in white. The keyboardist would try to look like beethoven, the bassist would wear early 1900's golfing pants. I would wear a parody of a suit, with no shirt.

It pays to move on. I'm really looking forward to the next lp. I want to get some increadable killer songs. I'd like to see "You Know Who You Are" do somethinng before I move on, though. The single "Rated X" didn't stay on the air for long because of the lyrical

content. They missed the point of the lyrics. they thought I was condoning pornography. You know, "Drinking champagne is her pastime/ making hot love is her mainline". I was just looking at it from another point of view. A porno star who gave it all away. I think they probably really know what it is about. The program directors are insulting the public's intellegence. They decide for the public what they can understand. It was in the Bible Belt. It's too pop for FM stations. You find yourself wondering if you should compromise. But there's no way I'm going to.

If we did release another single it would be "Backstreet Noise". I would remix it more

with a "Roxy Roller" type feeling. It's very unfortunate because if we don't get another single out we'll lose the album. I'd like people to hear "Tantalize". (ed. note: it's his favorite song on the album).

I'd like to get on a tour across the country-the long way 'round. Maybe playing under someone or headlining in major clubs. Sometimes you gotta come in the back door.

I believe in fate. I believe that now is the right time. For every trend there is a buffer. What I'm doing is a buffer for punk. There is a bond between punk and me. Positive vs. Negative. No future vs. there is hope. I'd like to see music take a nice step forward. Punk could be the total destruction of rock 'n'roll if it is misunderstood. The lack of substance could be the death of rock'n' roll. I'd like to see a Beatles thing

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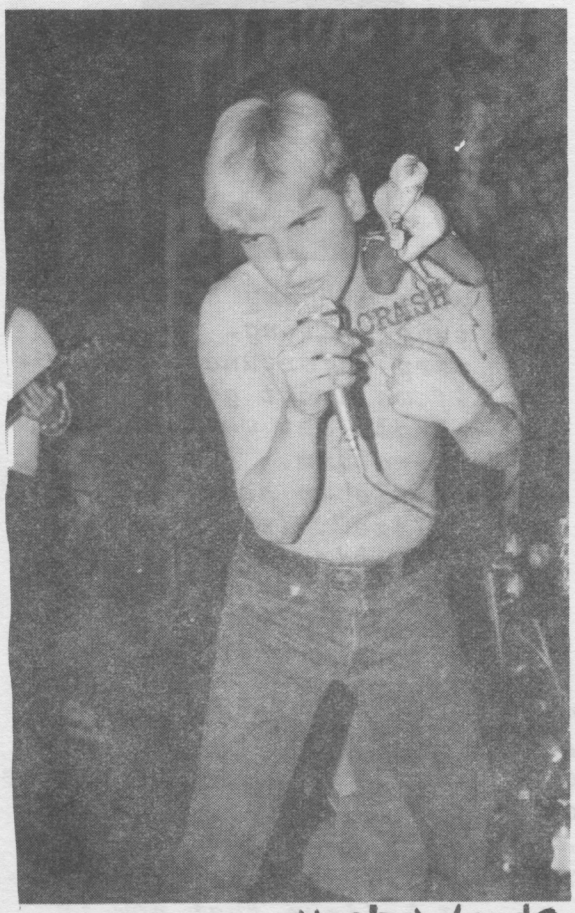
GERMS



Herb Wrede

I'm Darby Crash
A social blast
Chaotic Master

I'm Darby Crash
A mecca gash
Prophetic stature

-From "Circle One"
Lexitron Music, 1978

D.C.: Did you know that the name of your magazine was from the Who?

(Chorus of "Baba 'O" Reilly" from Theda and Zazz.)

T.N.: Why did you change your name from Bobby Pyn to Darby Crash?

D: Art.

T: Art?

D: Yeah, I got art-damage. I caught it from Penelope.

T: What's art-damage?

D: Art damage is like you aren't supposed to smile in pictures.

T: Yeah, and you aren't supposed to look at the camera, either.

D: So that's art-damage.

T: So is that why you changed your name?

D: No, to bother people.

T: But it doesn't bother me.

D: Yeah it does. What's my name? Bobby Pyn. See? I was going to change it last week, too.

T: To what?

D: First I was going to change it to Richie Dagger, then it was going to be Tommy Grey, but there already was someone with a name like that, and I don't want to give anyone any publicity they don't need. Oh yeah, and I was going to be Johnny O'Clock. What I'm going to do is publish a list of names, one for each month or something.

T: When are you going to do that? In the next issue of Wasteland? Who are your main influences, musicallly?

D: Nobody, because I write the songs, and I cant play. Except one- I thought I wrote this really good song, and I played it for the rest of the band, and it turned out to be "Gloria

Z: What do you think of Patti Smith?

D: She's an old fart.

T: What do you think of people that listen to rock'n'roll bands

like Zeppelin or Nugent?

D: You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals: do you take the court for Paris garden? Ye rude slaves, leave your gaping.

T: What is the statement behind punk rock, in your opinion.

D: I should call it a kind of-reductio ad absurdum.

Z: Do you think the American punk movement is as real as the British one?

D: I don't think there is an American punk movement.

T: So are American punks just trying to be "in"?

D: Well, who else is punk besides us?

Z: The Dils.

D: Are you kidding? The Dils say they're a communist band because their manager tells them to.

Z: The Dickies.

D: I like them, and I see why other people like them. But they aren't punks. They don't hate anything, and they don't have any violence. But they were signed.

T: The Ramones.

D: Yeah, but they started it.

T: Where does Iggy fit in?

D: I don't think he did.

T: People often compare your performances to Iggy. Is he a hero of yours?

D: Everyone thinks I like Iggy, just because of what I do onstage, but...

T: For those who have not seen the Germs, what do you do onstage?

D: I bleed a lot. I'm also into crowd control. Boy, I really am a great songwriter!

T: How about some lyrics?

D: Well, I like the chorus of"Forming", you know, the rip them down part. Everyone quotes that-here's one:

Le Gaunt Republique,
your people are so very thin
Your minds they are so desolate
The times are those of obsequy.
And all is just in equity.
-from "Le Gaunt Republique"
Lexitron Music, 1978.

T: Where are the Germs going in the future?

D: Well, I'm sitting at home, Pat's at the bus stop on the way to Hollywood...

Z: What's he doing down there?

D: What do you think? That's my famous saying now. Everybody's saying that now. You've got to say it with the right accent.

T & Z: What do you think?

D: Or what makes you think so. If you can say a whole sentence

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Singles

The Zippers "He's a Rebel" "You're so strange" (Back Door Man Records)

The best up and coming power pop band I've heard this year so far. A west coast Blondie with half the cuties and twice the power. Fun but not sickening fun. Both songs are great-it's all good. The guitar work is excellent, it's fast, breathless, unsophisticated, yet melodic. And Danielle Faye's vocals outdo Cherie Currie's any day of the week.

—Ann Drogyny

Johnny Thunders Heartbreakers "Chinese Rocks" "Born to Lose" (Track Record)

I like this. It's by Thunders, DeeDee Ramone, Nolan, Hell. Oh no wonder. I think the vocals are great, very energetic. You talk too much. I don't like the vocals as much. Why not? O like the guitar playing very much, and that's the strong point. It reminds me of the Dolls but the vocals aren't as good. Johnny Thunders has a very original style of guitar playing. The vocals are too emotionless. Somebody should have a Dolls' reunion. The Heartbreakers changed their name to the Junkies so that they wouldn't be confused with Tom Petty. Does that make this a rare single? No, I got it at Bomp.

(Side B)

This is a better side of the single. Yeah. I think Thunders' guitar playing is incerdible. It's probably Johnny Thunders singing. I don't think so 'cuz he sang on "Chatterbox" and this doesn't sound like that at all. All they say is "Born to Lose..." during the whole song. I like the opening a lot. This song reminds me of the Dolls. I wonder why? Who ever is singing is trying to imitate David Jo Hansen but they have less feeling and less vocal ability. Nobody really appreciated the Dolls back then. Nobody really appreciates this band, either, but I think they're ready for it.

Bambi & Angela

Jimmy Page "She Just Satisfies" (Fontana)

This is out of print and hard to find but worth the search. He has nothing to be embarrassed about. He's even a respectable singer. It sounds funny on this stereo. Maybe because it's a bootleg. It's really strange because this is Jimmy Page singing and playing harmonica, mostly. He's also a good bass player. It's aged well. It's mod music. I think some band today should do it. Yeah, the Jam. Maybe this review will help get it reissued. I hope so. It's amazing that he sings this well 'cuz he never talks. Gosh, all this time I thought he had a high, squeaky voice. That's what Tim told you, right? Yeah. Well, you were at the concert, too! Well, I wasn't listening. I think he sounds kind of like Keith Relf. He plays all of the instruments except drums. He plays harmonica better than Robert. He also plays excellent bass. And this is a catchy song. But we all knew he was a genius. Well, what did you expect?

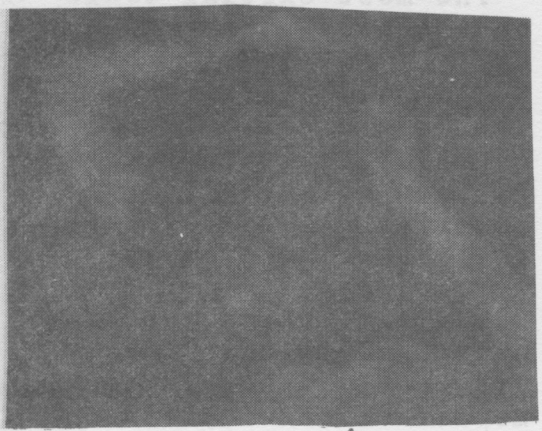
-Angela & Bambi

Avengers "We are the one" "I Beleive In Me" "Car Crash" (Dangerhouse)

I like this song. Oh, I love it, it's incredible. It's another good song to scream. It's very rebellious. It has a lot in common with X-Ray Specs "Oh Bondage, up Your's". They're both fight songs. This is for the youth of today. I love these songs that try to intimidate adults. What a snob you are! Why do you think I'm snobbish? Never mind, go to college, that's where you belong. Oh, leave me alone.

Bambi & Angela

Album Reviews



Patti Smith Group "Easter" (Arista)

This record should give Patti the recognition she has deserved for so long - the only problem is that this is so much more commercial than her other records (which are some of the most important art objects created in this century). I expected to hate this album and did - thinking Patti had sold out and continued to think like this the first four times I listened to it... But then I remembered the times I have worshipped her in every way (music, drawings, poetry...) and really listened to the music, which I discovered is excellent beyond comparison. Besides this, Patti could never do anything less than excellent. Strangely enough, "Because the Night", THE single, is my least favorite cut on the album. If you're not in the mood to hear them, "Ghost Dance" and the title cut can be tedious but art should be examined in a vacuum and they are fascinating under more proper conditions. The excitement in "25th Floor", "Rock 'n' Roll Nigger" and "Till Victory" is only matched in "Gloria" and "Ask the Angeles". "We Three", on which Tom Verlaine collaborated, is my favorite Patti Smith track since "Piss Factory". It's different but good. Patti is dead, long live Patti.

- Sadie Bondage

Detective "It Takes One to Know One" (Swan Song)

Detective is the most underrated band in the world. Throughout their entire career they've been plagued with comparisons to Led Zeppelin, Bad Company and Rod Stewart. Their second lp, "It Takes One to Know One", brings out a definite Detective sound. All five musicians are talented songwriters and combine their styles to make this one KILLER album.

The best song on this record is "Help Me Up", written by Jon Hyde, the drummer (!!!!). It's studio version almost equals the high energy of the live show. If you missed Detective while they were here last month, you may have to wait quite a while for their next appearance. Poor suckers.

"Betcha won't Dance" was written to get people on their feet during the shows. Detective feed on a responsive audience.

All the songs on this album are excellent. Of course, I may be biased since I've seen Detective a dozen times. But if I had never heard or seen them before and someone played me "Fever" or "Dynamite", I'd probably wake up, go out and buy this album.

-Bambi

The Rutles "All You Need is Cash" (Warner Bros.)

The message of this interesting and cleverly funny album is this: the Beatles are dead, fizzled out, defunct, gone, no longer and clearly not where it's happening. And if we continue to dwell like mourners on their memory we will indeed be in a Rut. We should be doing what comes naturally seven years after the

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breakup of most good bands-going in for a few laughs and reminiscences, which is what this album is trying to do, instead of always looking for possible ways of disinterment for something that should have been long dead and buried.

Come on, they've tried to discourage you guys from this sort of behaiviour for years, between Ringo shaving his head and George going to the Gods (and putting us to sleep). They are NEVER going to get together again, and if you can't live with that fact, then go out and blow $9.50 on a Beatlemainia ticket.

-Angela

Iggy Pop & James Williamson "Kill City" (Bomp)

An interesting artifact, this is Iggy's least exciting album possibly because it was done during the most mixed up period of his life(?). The style is in between the old "Raw Power", stooges sound and that of his more recent albums, which is fitting because that's when it was made. The sound overall is very pop. The opening strains sound like an unidentifiable Elton John song and lots of the songs even contain(gasp?) melodic background vocals. A lot of the vocals sound sedated, probably because Iggy was at the time. One of my favorite tracks, "Johanna", is about his old prick-tease of a girlfriend who used to play around with him while he was asleep and then leave him at a crucial point.

-Sadie Bondage

The Jam "This is the Modern World" (Polydore)

The Jam are London Mods. It's not fair to call them punks or even New Wave. They're young, they play new music, but their music takes over from where the Who's "My Generation" left us years ago.

Their first album, In the City, was a little disappointing, but they did do a tribute to our cultural hero, Batman.

This is the Modern World is an album every old or new Mod should have. The entire lp is a complete statement of every aspect of London life. Low income housing tube stations, working for wages, the weekend, the street, the traffic and the youth explosion are all here.

The most exiting songs on the album are"London Girl", "All Around the World" and "This is the Modern World", but my favorite is "Tonight at Noon". Every song is powerful enough to match the frustration in the lyrics.

The best thing about this band is that they are young. The oldest member of the Jam is only 22.They are actually living their lyrics: "I know what it is to be young".

P.S. Watch for the new Jam single, "Aunts & Uncles".

-Bambi

Blondie "Plastic Letters" (Chrysalis)

This album is great. It's fantastic. It's incredible, even. But it's not as great as their first album.

Now, call it art or call it overproduction, but I think the electronic/special effects in "Fanmail"and "Love at the Pier" don't go over. Rather, they go overboard. Only the fact that the songs are excellent in the true Blondie fashion saves them.

The rest of the album (except "Cautious Lip", the worst "Turn Blue" rip-off I ever heard) is great, catchy and fun, as always, though sometimes bordering too much on Cabaret ("Kidnapper") or Cartoon music (All the "Kung Fu Girls" reclamation songs), Chris

Continued on Back Page

The English Correspondant

There wasn't much happening this month except the Motorhead, 999 and Radio Stars gig which we have just been to.

I doubt if you have heard of Motorhead over there yet, have you? Well, most of their music is heavy rock and I mean heavy! A mixture of Led Zep and the Sex Pistols.

The gig took place at the Roundhouse. The Radio Stars turned up as an extra group, so we had more than our money's worth! Motorhead played a number of tracks from their new album, "Motorhead", such as "Vibrator" "Iron House", "Born to Lose" and "Keep us on the Road". They encored with their new single, "Motorhead". Wow, what a single!

999 came on and gave us a rendition of "I'm Alive" and "Quite Disappointing". "Emergency" was also played in a sort of encore.

Friday night we saw the Stranglers concert at the Roundhouse-brilliant! It was a shame that the Dictators didn't go down well with the crowd, probably because of all the spitting going on from all the English punks at the front near Handsome Dick Manitoba.

After a short intermission set from them, only about 20 minutes, the Stranglers came on, with their new single, "No more Heroes", followed by all their better tracks, eg. "London Lady", "Grip", "Peaches", Dagenham Dave","Bring on the Nubiles" and the strange B-side to the "Heroes" single, "In the Shadows".

The concert lasted from 8:45 till 11:00 with the whole place errupting with each song! I can't tell you much more except that you can keep the Dictators away from England. I don't think they will ever think of coming here again.

-Matthew Parry

In Defense of...

Dear Wasteland,

How come you guys never write anything about my fave group those adorable Scottish lads the Bay City Rollers? I mean, I've never heard of any of the other people you write about like this Steven T. guy. Like as fellow teens you guys should know how irresistable these talented Scottish lads are. They have areally great stage show and it's amazing how accurately they recreate the sounds on their records onstage! They are so sexy in their little tartan shorts. It's sad that they are so misunderstood in the press. I mean, like everybody got so hostile when they hit the little old lady with their car and shot at a fan, but at least they don't drink or take DRUGS like all those other rock bands and they trying very hard to cut down on their smoking. After all, they are entitled to a little fun after concerts, aren't they? I love them all and especially DEREK! and I have never missed one of their T.V. appearances, like on Don Kirshner or Wonderama. This shows that they appeal to all age groups, and even my grandmother loves them. I think if you printed more on them you might even get to be as popular as 16 magazine.

Luv,
Suzy Dipstick

P.S. Please print a pic of them with this letter.

Vom & The Dickies

Vom is pure puke. R. Meltzer and his band of hippies ralphed all over the audience with color-

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Z: Are they idols of the band or enemies?

JH: Neither, they're just two idiots.

Z: Is "No Pills" a pro-drug song?

JH: No, it's an anti-drug song.

Z: Is the band against drugs?

JH: No, I have nothing against them, personally.

Z: Johnny Nails has a unique style of singing. Where did that originate?

JH: He spent a lot of time in the barnyard with goats. There's not another singer on the face of the Earth who can sing like him. That's a good point - I'd like to plug the drummer here. Fast Freddie, as he's known among friends, in my personal opinion is the best drummer I've played with.

Z. And you've played with a lot of drummers?

JH: Yeah, I have a great deal of respect for him.

Z. What would the Torpedoes do if there were no drugs, energy, sex or whiskey?

JH: We'd eat our equipment.

-Zazz

Nick

Continued from page 7

happening. I like where Cheap Trick is coming from. There has to be something else is the feeling I get. Whatever it is that the punks are trying to say but not saying it. I like the Ramones. There is a lot of cartoon punk in L.A. They don't understand what it is to be working in a coal mine and getting drunk on Saturday nights.

John Lennon was such a master at word games. He could make totally meaningless phrases sound meaningful. This is what I'm trying to do. I try to write songs from two different angles. Some people can listen to it and think nothing about it and others can listen to it and it will mean a lot to them. "Backstreet

Noise" sounds nice like any other song. If you actually think about its lyrics you can see a whole different meaning. I've always liked songs that to the mass audience it may mean one thing and to yourself another. All of my songs are like that. Like the title "You Know Who You Are". Anyone can find themselves in that title. A whole bunch of things could be happening for me right now if I got the promotion. Radios are into playing stars and not making stars. If they don't know who you are, they aren't interested.

-Bambi

DARBY

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that way, it's even better.

T: Now that the Germs are getting famous, are you more conceited than you were.

D: No, I've always been this conceited. And I was misconstrued, too.

Z: Is there anyway to crush your ego, Darby Crash?

D: No.

Z: Is there anyway to crash your ego, Darby Crush?

T: What are your plans for the future? Do you have a new single coming out?

D: We sure do. You just heard it, you idiot

T: Tell us about it.

D: It'll just punch them out. It'll kill our die-hard fans. Compared to our first single, it's progressive.

Z: What do you think of progressive music? Like Kansas?

D: Who is that? Oh, they do that song, "Carry on my Wayward Homo".

T: What is your favorite group?

D: The vowels.

T: Who are they?

D: You know, A E I O U and sometimes Y, he just plays synthesizer.

T: Who do you think is the best L.A. group?

D: I think the Screamers and the Zippers. No, it's the Avengers.

T: They aren't an L.A. group.

D: I know, we adopted them. Be sure to give them that adress, and tell them to send me lots of money. Then they can join the fan club, even though we won't send them anything

T: Where should they send the money?

D: Panic magazine or 10577 Wellworth Ave., Los Angeles, Calif., 90024.

T: Do you want that printed?

D: Sure, I want the money! I can't even pay my hospital bills, and you know how those occupational hazards are.

T: Darby would also like fan mail!

D: Well, if they send $1.00, we'll send them pictures. If they send $2.00, we won't send them anything. And if they send $3.00 we'll move into their house.

Thank you, Darby, and happy one year aniversary to the Germs!

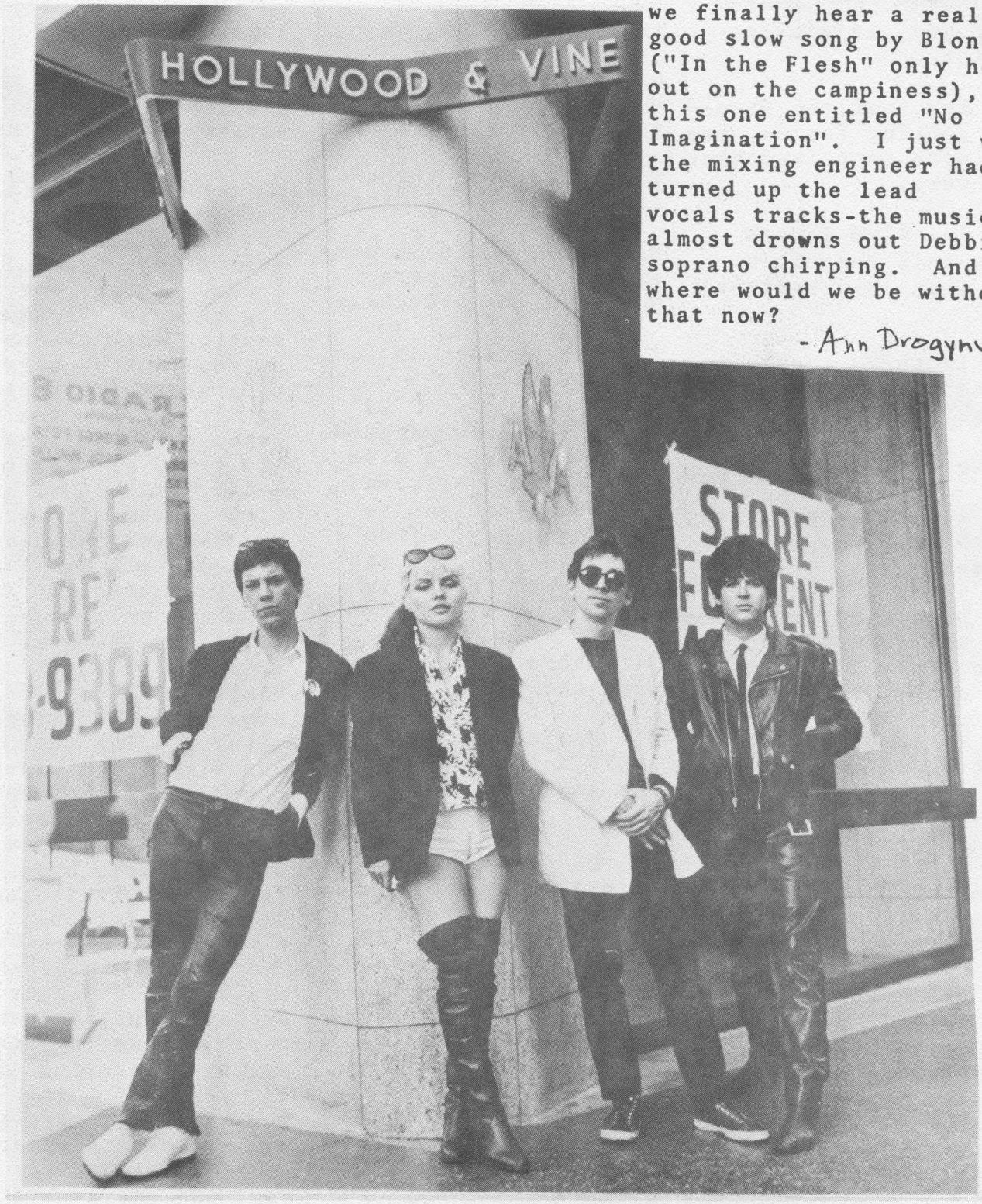
-Theda

Vom & The Dickies

less, humorless lyrics, insulting everyone and everything, handfuls of cooked noodles and Glad Bag garbage. I wouldn't mention this nauseating pseudo-punk band except to give credit where credit is due- the audience doused Meltzer and his group with spit and water, stabbed at him with obscenities and watched Meltzer destroy himself with his own childish temper. Now this was only Wednesday night, on Thursday he got himself and the other Vomitous members of the band thrown offstage after playing tug of war with his microphone chord and subsequently hitting someone over the head with his mike stand. Barf, barf... this isn't excitement, it's indigestion.

I simply love the Dickies. There's something about the way lead singer Leonard runs back and forth across the stage, waving those long arms and legs. The seriuosness they lack goes unnoticed-it's unnecessary for them. They have the energy and the finess to have me hopping through every number.

-Zazz

Stein's great guitar work saves the day, adding just enough texture to call it theatrical art-rock. Plus an extra bonus: we finally hear a really good slow song by Blondie, ("In the Flesh" only held out on the campiness), this one entitled "No Imagination". I just wish the mixing engineer had turned up the lead vocals tracks-the music almost drowns out Debbie's soprano chirping. And where would we be without that now?

-Ann Drogyny